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(54) **Method and apparatus for delivering compressed video to subscriber terminals**

(57) A method and an apparatus for distributing a content stream from a headend to a subscriber terminal are described. In one example, the content stream is processed at the headend to generate a sequence of instances having successively staggered reference frames. A request for the content streams is received from the subscriber terminal at an initial time. In response to the request, an instance from the sequence of instances having the first reference frame after the initial time is selected. The selected instance is transmitted towards the subscriber terminal.

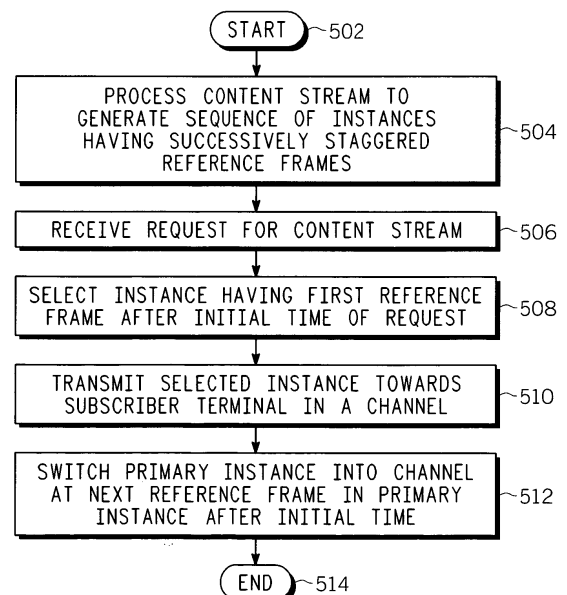


FIG. 5

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 06 02 5219

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	* paragraphs [0059], [0069] * * column 11, lines 31-35 * * paragraphs [0078], [0079] * * column 12, lines 14-18 * * paragraphs [0093], [0095] - [0097] * * paragraph [0102] * * figures 3,4,6,7 *	3,4,10, 11,17	
Y	US 2004/231004 A1 (SEO KWANG-DEOK [KR]) 18 November 2004 (2004-11-18) * abstract * * paragraph [0069] * * figure 7 *	3,4,10, 11,17	
A	WEE S J ET AL: "Splicing MPEG video streams in the compressed domain" MULTIMEDIA SIGNAL PROCESSING, 1997., IEEE FIRST WORKSHOP ON PRINCETON, NJ, USA 23-25 JUNE 1997, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 23 June 1997 (1997-06-23), pages 225-230, XP010233828 ISBN: 978-0-7803-3780-0 * abstract * * page 228, lines 2-10 *	3,4,10, 11,17	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) H04N
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 27 April 2009	Examiner Kilincarpas, Sendar
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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